



## A CONCEPT NOTE

### ADAPTIVE DELTA MANAGEMENT: BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017

Venue: WARPO Conference Hall, WARPO, 72 Green Road, Dhaka.

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#### **Adaptive Delta Management:**

Adaptive delta management is an approach to deal with development uncertainties in a transparent and sensible way to support decision making with regard to water policy, planning and infrastructural investments. It links current decision making to future choices. It builds further upon years of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) experiences. Climate change threatens people living in delta areas all over the world. Climate change, land subsidence, increasing population and economic development increase the risk of floods and droughts. Through Adaptive delta management we can assess the potential impacts of climate induced disasters and the development and implementation of adaptation measures. To develop long-term scenarios for Delta regions, a holistic adaptive approach is required for sustainable delta management. ADM combines adaption and flexibility to empower robust decisions based on a better understanding of future scenarios. This, all-inclusive approach to delta management, would protect, restore and enhance the delta ecosystem and its services.

For good performance of ADM, a resilient, functioning estuary and surrounding terrestrial landscape is needed, which can support viable populations and migratory species with diverse and biologically appropriate habitats, functional corridors, and ecosystem processes. Bangladesh Delta inherits all these characteristics and thus has become the focus of ADM.

#### **Bangladesh Perspective:**

Over population across the world is a serious problem especially in South Asia. This results in severe stress in natural resources management and climate change has become a major concern. Reducing poverty, hunger and developing the economic footing through **effective water resources management** in the Deltas of South Asia require approaches that are effective for poor households, and operate at river basins to stakeholder scales and across country boundaries. As one of the largest & most densely populated deltas in the world, the **Bangladesh delta** has already experienced numerous interventions of water management including upstream water withdrawal, reduction of floodplain and pollution. All these structural and imposed interventions, coupled with uncertainties of climate changes, have restricted the delta's capacity to provide needed ecosystem services. By making the approach flexible, the solutions are more likely to be resilient and particularly important if the impact of climate change is to be fully integrated into managing the Bangladesh Delta. ADM would help to ensure that short term investments address the long-term challenges facing the **Bangladesh Delta**. By developing a **long-term vision** that shapes short-term no-regrets actions. Investments in major infrastructure, for example, would consider not only the short-term benefit of the investment, but also anticipate and avoid possible adverse longer-term consequences. We know that Deltas are fragile, but economically vital places. They feed and support large populations and provide invaluable ecosystem services. **More than 160 million** people depend on the Bangladesh Delta for their lives and livelihoods. Being an over populous delta country, Bangladesh is facing tremendous challenge to cope up with the rapidly changing climate scenarios and subsequent climate induced disasters. In Bangladesh perspective, Adaptive Delta Management is comparatively a new concept. It is not operational yet. **As one of the prime movers in Deltaic Development, DABW should play a leading role to bridge this knowledge gap and facilitate different stakeholders of Delta Management Sector to be equipped with Adaptive Delta Management Concept.**

**Broad Objective:**

The existing knowledge and experience available in the public, private, and civil societies including institutions may effectively be utilized for proper understanding, planning and implementation to address **deltaic problems**. Therefore, one of the foremost point of this Seminar is to disseminate the knowledge how Adaptive Delta Management is going to contribute to Bangladesh Delta Plan, how is to be operational through some examples and practical experience in Delta Management.

**Official Language:** English/ Bengali

**Financial Supporting Organization:** Delta Alliance International Wing

**Technical Supporting Organization:** Institute of Water Modelling (IWM)

**Participants:**

Besides major players like BWDB, WARPO, LGED, the participants of this knowledge sharing Seminar will come from a variety of cross sections of the society especially from private sectors, NGO's in water sectors etc. Approximately 40 participants will participate and contribute in this Seminar.

- Ministry of Water Resources Bangladesh (MoWR)
- Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)
- DWASA
- Department of Environment (DOE)
- Department of Forest
- Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief/DDM
- Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA)
- Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET, IWFM, CE & WRE)
- Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO)
- Institute of Water Modelling (IWM)
- Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)
- Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)
- Department of Bangladesh Haor & Wetlands Development
- Dhaka University
- Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies (BCAS)
- Bangladesh Water partnership (BWP)
- Planning Commission, Bangladesh
- Department of Agricultural Extension
- Wageningen Project Office, Dhaka
- Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands
- Cordaid Bangladesh
- Water Aid
- The World Bank
- Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC)
- Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh (GWAPB)
- Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
- BRAC University
- NGO Forum for Public Health.